

FILED BY APR 13 10 59  
Drs. Sondra and Alex Rosiewicz  
36 Treaty Elm Lane  
Stow MA 01775

7 April 1999

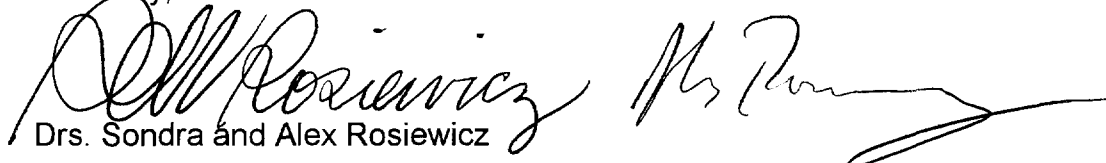
Lyle D. Jaffee  
Dockets Management, FDA/CHHS  
12420 Parklawn Dr., Room I-23  
Rockville MD 20857

Dear Mr. Jaffee,

We recently read about forced molting and the stressful and inhumane conditions in which hens used for their eggs are squeezed with up to five others into an indoor, wire cage with floor space the size of a folded newspaper. Barely able to move or sit comfortably, their beaks are sliced off, and producers attempt to force one last laying cycle out of the exhausted spent hens before sending them to slaughter by cruelly and unnaturally forcing the hens into a "molt." Forced molting throws hens' systems into collapse, stressing and shocking them into losing their feathers quickly. Forced molting is so cruel that in 1987 it was banned in Great Britain and most European countries do not allow food deprivation for more than 24 hours. Yet, in North American, no laws protect these poor creatures and more than 6 million hens are being force-molted.

We strongly support the petition to ban the forced molting of layer hens (docket 98P-0203/CP) and will urge the Department of Agriculture to ban forced molting of layer hens. The moral progress and greatness of a society can be judged by the ways its animals are treated.

Sincerely,

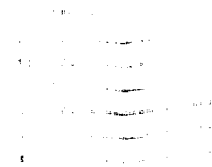
  
Drs. Sondra and Alex Rosiewicz

98P-0203

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Dr. Rosiewicz  
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